QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Control of food materials.

61. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table in a consolidated form the various rules and notifications actually in force on 1-10-1118 regarding the collection, keeping, transport and distribution or sale of all the food materials like rice, tapioca etc., produced in the State?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Additional Secretary to Government*): A Manual embodying all Rules and Notifications relating to food control is under preparation and will soon be circulated among the members of the Legislature.

Ration Cards.

62. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether ration cards for rice, paddy and other food materials are supplied by them to all citizens of the State:

(*b*) if not, the class of persons to whom such ration cards are supplied; and

(*c*) whether cultivators of paddy, to any extent, are supplied with such ration cards?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Rationing under the card system has been introduced in the Municipalities alone for the time being. The question of extending the system to non-Municipal areas also is under consideration.

(*b*) & (*c*) The ration card is directed to be issued only to those who depend entirely on Government supplies of rice or paddy.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether the term "those who depend entirely on Government supplies" exclude or include cultivators of lands?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It will include cultivators as well. But when the cultivators do not have enough paddy left with them they may petition to Government to that effect, when supplies will be made.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): May I know from the honourable member whether they have realised that the delay involved will increase the starvation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: There is no delay at all.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Thovala* cum *Agastiswaram*): May I know whether Nagercoil Municipality is included?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Arrangements are being made to supply cards to that municipality.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): How long will it take to issue cards?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That will be done as soon as the cards are ready.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know whether ration cards are intended to be supplied to rural parts?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That is the idea of Government.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN (*Kunnathnad* cum *Parur*): ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ അരി വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നതു് ഏതു തോതു വച്ചാണു്?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: അതാതു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ തഹശീൽദാർമാർ എവിടെ കൂടുതൽ ദുരിതമുണ്ടെന്നു അന്വേഷിച്ചു കണ്ടുപിടിക്കയും അതനുസരിച്ചു് അവിടെ കൂടുതൽ അരി വിതരണം ചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്യും.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന വിതരണരീതി മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ പ്രകാരം അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടതന്നെയാണു് പ്രയോഗത്തിൽ വരുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു മെംബർ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: എന്നു തന്നെയാണു് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether the various distribution committees have issued ration cards.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): When the ration cards are issued, are arrangements made by Government to distribute rice to those people who have cards?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Arrangements are made to that effect.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know whether arrangements are made in Tovala to distribute rice to the people?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR; Yes, arrangements have been made with the Taluk Committees.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know from what time?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: From the time they are in command of rice.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know the date from which arrangements were made?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Arrangements were made so that the Taluk Committees were in command of rice from the 1st of Edavom.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether arrangements are made for rationing in the interior parts?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Arrangements will be made as soon as supply is received.

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PRESIDENT : What I have been trying to say to the House for the past 1½ hours does not seem to have been understood. The Food Controller has assumed that supplies will come. That supply will come when the railways are available, and that will be available when Sir Edward Benthal moves, and he will move when the rice from Baluchistan moves.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know, whether ration cards have been supplied to the people of Kuttanad.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The idea of Government is to introduce rationing in Municipalities first and then to extend to other areas.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP; May I know whether the life of these people will stand till Government issue ration cards?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Arrangements are being made to supply rice to these people without the issue of ration cards?

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know whether the people of Kuttanad depend on private rice?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Ambalapuzha taluk gets 200 bags of rice,

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know whether ration cards are issued to the people of Kuttanad?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Ration cards are not issued to the people in non-municipal areas now.

PRESIDENT; Ration cards are not the only way by which rice could be supplied. It is being tried in the Municipalities, and its success is still problematical. As a matter of fact, I have received very serious complaints about the system of ration cards. Elsewhere ration-cards are being auctioned. So it is a question to be determined by experience whether ration cards is the system to be followed or whether a local committee could be entrusted to distribute the rice. That is a matter which is seriously engaging the attention of Government.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: I want to know whether any supply of rice is made to Kuttanad?

PRESIDENT: The object of Government is that. It is all the more the reason that since Kuttanad is a place wherefrom we are taking rice, Government will be anxious to supply rice to those people. They have appointed a committee and various officers to distribute rice to Kuttanad.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (*Chief Secretary to Government*): May I explain the position so far as the rationing scheme is concerned and the issue of the card system. It was represented that in areas where rice is made available it is not being distributed among everybody according to any fixed principle.

SADASYATHILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I rise to a point of order whether an official member who is not in charge of the particular question can explain it before the House?

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PRESIDENT: There are no such members as official members. There are only the Government benches. Anybody may ask a question and everybody who is on Government benches is entitled to answer on behalf of Government or supplement the answers. Any person can say in substitution of what another has said or in interruption of another person, if there is need for interruption. The Chief Secretary might answer a question with regard to transport and the Food Controller might answer a question with regard to finance. So far as the Government benches are concerned, there is no distinction between one member and another.

SADASYATHILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: I thank you, Sir.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Let me clear one or two apprehensions which seem to have been entertained by the honourable members. So far as the issue of ration cards in municipal areas is concerned, it is part of a scheme of rationing introduced as a matter of experiment.

In the coastal regions where distress is greater than elsewhere the introduction of the ration card system is under the active consideration of Government. Apart from the question of ration cards, I may at once assure the honourable members that so far as Kuttanad and other areas of production are concerned, Government have taken very great care to see that the local paddy produced is itself released so far as is possible, for distribution among the people of those areas. Along with this, rice imported from abroad to the extent available is also being allowed to the taluk agencies for distribution. The method and the agencies of distribution in those areas where rationing system has not been introduced must be well known to the members of the House, namely that Government hold the Tahsildar responsible for the entire stock handed over, while the distribution is effected invariably through the assistance of the local committees appointed for the purpose.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഈ ലോക്കൽ കമ്മറിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഏതെങ്കിലും തഹശീൽദാരോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മറ്റധികാരികളോ നിർവഹിക്കുന്നതായി അറിയാമോ ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That depends entirely on the constitution and composition of the committees concerned.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether the member is aware of the G. O. in respect of the Taluk Committees?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes. I am referring not only to the Taluk Committees but also to the local committees such as the Pakuthy Committees or the Kara Committees.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether the Taluk Food Control Committees have anything to do with the distribution by the Tahsildars?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Taluk Committees can also act in co-operation. There is no reference in the G. O. to the Taluk Committees functioning as such. There is nothing preventing them from functioning in active collaboration with the taluk officials.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the member is aware that there is no reference to the Taluk Committees in the G. O. empowering the Tahsildars to appoint local committees for the distribution of rice and tapioca?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Kara Committees must have transformed themselves into Taluk Committees.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know the officers who are appointed for the distribution of rice and tapioca in the rural areas?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Village School master and other prominent persons.

PRESIDENT: The idea was, as far as possible, to eliminate the Revenue, Police and Excise officers from the distribution of rice and paddy. Anchal office officials and school masters of the locality have been entrusted with this work. The Kara Committees are entrusted with the distribution of paddy and the Taluk Committees have nothing to do with it.

Iron Bridge at Quilon.

63. ***MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how long it is since the Iron Bridge at Quilon became unsafe for heavy traffic; and

(*b*) whether any estimate has been prepared for repairing the same?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Irrigation and Miscellaneous*):

(*a*) From the beginning of 1114 M. E.

(*b*) Yes.

Kariyamanikkapuram Village Temple Tank.

64. ***MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Kariyamanikkapuram Village Temple Tank is maintained by Government;

(*b*) whether non-Hindus have any right to bathe in the said tank; and

(*c*) whether any complaint has been lodged before the Idalakudy Police Station that it is being used by non-Hindus?

MR. J. C. CHACKO: (*a*) The expenditure on account of the maintenance is met from the Devaswom Fund.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No complaint was lodged in the Idalakudy Station but one complaint was lodged in the Kottar Police Station in 1117.

Export of banana flour.

65. ***MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether banana flour is being exported from the State;

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